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**Name of Organization:** Michigan State University

**Type of Organization:** College or University

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**Project Title:** Assessment of Great Lakes Fishery Management Policy

**Project Category:** Emerging Issues

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 0

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 64,980 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

**Abstract:**

The proposed research will provide an assessment of the perceived effectiveness and fairness of the 1985 Consent Decree, a court-supervised policy tool employed to manage the Michigan's Laurentian Great Lakes fishery. This policy included novel provisions, such as the creation of separate fishing zones for tribal and non-tribal fishermen and fish conservation refuges where tribal fishermen could not use traditional fishing gear. It also allocated the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes fishery between fishers licensed by the State of Michigan and tribal fishers. The proposed study will evaluate how this policy tool affected fish stocks and fishery allocation. Additionally, it will offer an understanding of how the provisions imposed by the Consent Decree have benefited or adversely affected the human dimensions of fisheries management, such as perceived equity of distribution and preservation of treaty fishing rights.

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**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

**Lakes:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

**Geographic Initiatives:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

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***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

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**Problem Statement:**

The proposed research will address the issue of fishery management policy in the Michigan waters of the Great Lakes. Present fishery management policy, the 1985 Consent Decree, is a court-supervised agreement between the State of Michigan and Indian tribes that provides joint management of the Great Lakes. This policy sought to promote fishery conservation while providing an equitable allocation of the Great Lakes fishery between state-licensed fishers and tribal fishers. Furthermore, it was created with the intention of protecting Native treaty fishing rights. Though the goals of the 1985 Consent Decree were extremely significant for Great Lakes fishery management, an evaluation of this policy has yet to be conducted.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

The research will offer an assessment of this policy's effectiveness in meeting the prescribed goals of fishery conservation, equitable allocation, and preservation of treaty fishing rights. This information is critical for guiding future fisheries management policy in the Great Lakes.

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**Project Milestones:**

**Dates:**

Project Start

06/2000

Preliminary Assessment I

11/2000

Preliminary Assessment II

06/2001

Preliminary Assessment III

11/2001

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Project End

06/2002

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☒ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

The proposed management policy evaluation will address the issue of environmental justice through its investigation of the 1985 Consent Decree's equity in its distribution of the Great Lakes fishery (between non-tribal and tribal fishers) and preservation of Native treaty fishing rights.

☐ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	29,232	10,000
<b>Fringe:</b>	10,873	10,000
<b>Travel:</b>	2,000	0
<b>Equipment:</b>	1,500	500
<b>Supplies:</b>	300	0
<b>Contracts:</b>	0	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	0	1,000
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	43,905	21,500
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	21,075	0
<b>Total:</b>	64,980	21,500
<b>Projected Income:</b>	64,980	21,500

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

Michigan State University, \$3,500., Research of Native Fishing Rights and the 1985 Consent Decree

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

The researcher has spoken with several representatives of the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Indian band with the largest number of fishing participants. This stakeholder group has expressed support for an assessment of the Consent Decree. Staff with whom the researcher has spoken to in the Michigan regulatory agency, the Department of Natural Resources, also are keenly interested in an assessment of the agreement. Sport fishing contacts, including some fishers and some organizational staff are supportive.